

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2012

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Senator Corbett

(Coauthor: Senator Evans)

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Buchanan, Gordon, Huffman,
and Wieckowski)*

February 13, 2012

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to the San Francisco Bay
Restoration Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 17, as amended, Corbett. Coastal resources: San Francisco Bay.

This measure would declare the Legislature's endorsement of S. 97
and H.R. 3034, and would urge the United States Congress to enact the
San Francisco *Bay* Restoration Act at the earliest possible time.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary on the
2 west coast of the United States; and
3 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is an ecologically rich and
4 productive estuary, but its ecological values have declined
5 significantly as a result of physical alteration and pollution over
6 the past 160 years; and
7 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay is the hub of commercial
8 activity and is home to the third largest commercial port on the
9 west coast of the United States, has three international airports,
10 and is vital to the economic vitality of California and of the United
11 States; and

1 WHEREAS, Low-lying developed areas along the shore of San
2 Francisco Bay, such as Silicon Valley, contribute immeasurably
3 to the economic vitality of California and the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, The sea level rose approximately eight inches in
5 San Francisco Bay between the years 1900 and 2000; and

6 WHEREAS, The California Ocean Protection Council estimates
7 the sea level will rise an additional 14 inches by the year 2050 and
8 will rise to 55 inches by the year 2100; and

9 WHEREAS, A one meter sea level rise would threaten
10 commercial, residential, and industrial structures around San
11 Francisco Bay valued at \$48 billion (in year 1990 dollars); and

12 WHEREAS, A 1.4 meter sea level rise will put 480,000 people
13 living in coastal California at risk of a 100-year flood event, given
14 the size of the population (in year 2000). Populations in San Mateo
15 and Orange Counties are especially vulnerable. In each, an
16 estimated 110,000 people are at risk. Large numbers of residents
17 (66,000) in Alameda County are also at risk; and

18 WHEREAS, Nearly \$100 billion (in year 2000 dollars) worth
19 of property along California's coast, measured as the replacement
20 value of buildings and contents, is at risk of flooding from a
21 100-year event with a 1.4 meter sea level rise if no adaptation
22 actions are taken. An overwhelming two-thirds of that property is
23 concentrated on San Francisco Bay; and

24 WHEREAS, Building or strengthening levees and seawalls
25 simply to protect existing high value development along the San
26 Francisco Bay shoreline was estimated to require an immediate
27 capital investment of approximately \$1 billion (in year 1990
28 dollars) and would require an additional \$100 million per year in
29 ongoing maintenance; and

30 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Estuary Partnership, part of the
31 National Estuary Program of which the State of California is an
32 official partner and sponsor, developed a Comprehensive
33 Conservation and Management Plan for San Francisco Bay in 1993
34 that, among other programs, recommended a large-scale restoration
35 of San Francisco Bay wetlands to restore the estuary and improve
36 flood protection of the developed shoreline; and

37 WHEREAS, The largest coastal wetland restoration program
38 in the nation has been underway in San Francisco Bay since 1993;
39 and

1 WHEREAS, Restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands can
2 dramatically improve the effectiveness of flood management efforts
3 in San Francisco Bay by performing the functions of manmade
4 structures in key locations; and

5 WHEREAS, Restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands can
6 dramatically reduce the costs of providing flood protection for the
7 developed shoreline by supplanting the need for manmade
8 structures in key locations; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay wetlands will provide more
10 effective flood protection benefits the more quickly they are
11 restored; and

12 WHEREAS, California Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced
13 S. 97 and California Congresswoman Jackie Speier has introduced
14 H.R. 3034, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act, to provide
15 federal matching funds to accelerate the restoration of San
16 Francisco Bay's wetlands for, among others, the purpose of
17 adapting to ongoing sea level rise; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
19 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature endorses S. 97 and H.R.
20 3034, and respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact
21 the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act promptly; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
23 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California
24 in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for
25 appropriate distribution.